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1st and 2nd January 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) India and Pakistan

- India and Pakistan exchanged lists of nuclear installations that cannot be attacked in the event of hostilities, maintaining a tradition dating back to 1992 despite bilateral ties being at an all-time low.
- The two sides further exchanged lists of prisoners held in each other's jails, and the Indian side sought the early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, missing defence personnel and fishermen, along with their boats, from Pakistan's custody.

2) Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

- Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office for a third term as Brazil's president, vowing to fight for the poor and the environment and "rebuild the country" after far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro's divisive administration.
- The 77-year-old veteran leftist, who previously led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, took the oath of office before Congress, capping a remarkable political comeback for the metalworker-turned-president less than five years after he was jailed on controversial, since-quashed corruption charges.

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3) 10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest

- The 10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest, the largest international literary festival in Bangladesh, which was postponed three years in a row owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, is scheduled for January 5-8, 2023.
- The Bangla Academy in Dhaka's historic grounds will serve as the venue for the event.

4) Tesla and Twitter CEO Elon Musk

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- Tesla and Twitter CEO Elon Musk became the first person to lose \$200 billion from his net worth. Elon Musk has seen a drop of up to \$137 billion in his wealth after a recent drop in Tesla Shares.
- The shares of his electric car company are down nearly 65 percent.
- Elon Musk became the richest person in the world for the first time in January 2021 with a net worth of more than \$185 billion.
- However, he was replaced by Bernard Arnault, the chief executive of luxury brand Louis Vuitton's parent company LVMH as the world's richest man.

NATIONAL

1) Fifth volume of the Reserve Bank of India's

- The fifth volume of the Reserve Bank of India's history is released. This volume encompasses the 11-year period from 1997 to 2008.
- With this volume, the history of the Reserve Bank of India is now updated up to 2008.
- The Reserve Bank had initiated the process of preparation of this volume in 2015 under the guidance of an Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Narendra Jadhav, former Member of Parliament and former Principal Adviser & Chief Economist of the Reserve Bank.

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2) 'Utkarsh 2.0'

- The Reserve Bank of India's Medium-term Strategy Framework for the period 2023-2025 – 'Utkarsh 2.0' – was launched by Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI.
- The first strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022) covering the period 2019-2022 was launched in July 2019. It became a medium-term strategy document guiding the Bank's progress towards realisation of the identified milestones.
- Utkarsh 2.0 would allow the central bank to both react and act proactively to confront socio-economic challenges.

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3) Public sector bank Punjab and Sind Bank

- Public sector bank Punjab and Sind Bank has partnered with SBI Card to launch co-brand credit cards for the bank's customers.
- PSB has also entered the credit card market as a new product segment in its portfolio as a result of this collaboration.
- Three card variants—the PSB SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card PRIME, and PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card—have been launched by both partners.
- This collaboration also marks the entry of PSB into 'credit cards' as a new product segment under the bank's portfolio.

4) International Year of Millets

- The Government of India sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets 2023 which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly.
- The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM.
- PM Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'.

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5) Indian Space and Research Organization

- Indian Space and Research Organization, National Centre for Earth Sciences, and the Andhra University have researched and concluded that constant rip current zones at blue flag-certified Rushikonda beach and RK Beach have become a danger to the beach visitors.
- Between 2012 to 2022, over 200 people drowned in the sea at various beaches in and around Visakhapatnam and 60 percent of deaths occurred in RK Beach.

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6) Indian Institute of Astrophysics

- A team of astronomers led by scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and their international collaborators decided to study the most massive globular cluster system in our galaxy, Omega Centauri.
- They have detected strange hot stars in the cluster using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) image on AstroSat.
- They have found that these hot stars emitted much less ultraviolet radiation than expected from theoretical models and in comparison, with stars of another globular cluster, M13 has similar overall properties.

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7) The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation

- India's first underwater metro service, The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, is expected to be completed by December 2023.
- With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country.
- Kolkata Metro, which started its journey in 1984, is being expanded to cover the whole city and its outskirts.
- The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hoogly river will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.

STATE NEWS

1) Mega Dairy at Mandya

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Mega Dairy at Mandya in Karnataka. The mega dairy inaugurated at a cost of Rs 260 crore would process 10 lakh liters of milk per day and the will have the capacity to increase it upto 14 lakh liters per day.
- 10 lakh liters of milk is processed, prosperity reaches the homes of lakhs of farmers.



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- There are 15,210 village level cooperative dairies in Karnataka, in which about 26.22 lakh farmers deliver their milk daily and through 16 district level dairies, Rs 28 crore is deposited into the accounts of 26 lakh farmers every day.

2) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission

- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission has launched the Prajjwala Challenge.
- The Prajjwala Challenge has been launched to invite ideas, solutions, and actions that can transform rural development.
- It will provide a platform where ideas are invited from individuals, social enterprises, start-ups, the private sector, civil society, community-based organizations, academic institutions, incubation centers, investors, etc having the potential to transform the rural economy.

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APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

1) Ajay Kumar Srivastava

- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank with effect from January 1, 2023 from his current posting as executive director.
- He started his banking career as a probationary officer in 1991 with Allahabad Bank where he worked in various capacities in different parts of the country.
- He is an astute and hardcore banker with Vast field-level experience and has the distinction of having successfully led the largest and most critical areas of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Delhi while working at a senior level in Allahabad Bank.

SPORTS

1) Khelo India Youth Games 2022

- Hockey Haryana's women's team won the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers after defeating Madhya Pradesh (2-0) in the final at Bhubaneswar.
- In the final match, Pooja and Gurmail Kaur scored a goal each for Haryana to end the contest in their favour.

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- Odisha stepped up to claim third place after beating Hockey Jharkhand 2-1 in the 3rd and 4th place encounter.
- Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games (Women) to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

2) Khelo India Youth Games 2022

- In Hockey, Madhya Pradesh defeated Odisha 6-5 to clinch Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 Qualifiers title in Bhubaneswar.
- In a thrilling final, Jamir Mohammad was the star of the final, scoring a hat-trick, while Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Zaid Khan and captain Ankit Pal scored one goal each for Madhya Pradesh.
- On the other hand, Anmol Ekka, Paulus Lakra, Deepak Minz and Akash Soreng scored one goal each for Odisha.
- Haryana defeated Jharkhand 2-0 to secure the third position in the competition. Amandeep and Roshan scored the goals for Haryana. With this, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.

3) Former World rapid champion K. Humpy

- Former World rapid champion K. Humpy produced a superlative performance to claim India's first-ever silver medal from the World blitz chess championship that concluded in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Humpy defeated China's Zhongyi Tan to win Silver in the 17th and final round. Fourth-seeded Humpy scored an impressive 12.5 points, just half a point behind the gold medal winner Bibisara Balabayeva of Kazakhstan.
- Humpy is the second Indian to win a medal at World Blitz, after Viswanathan Anand.

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4) Koustav Chatterjee

- Nineteen-year-old Kolkata-based chess player, Koustav Chatterjee became India's 78th Grandmaster. He is also the tenth GM from West Bengal.



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- Koustav earned his first GM norm in October 2021 at a Grandmasters' chess tournament in Bangladesh. He got his second GM norm at the Asian championship in the first week of November 2022.
- He crossed FIDE rating 2500 in August. Koustav is in the joint-lead with GM Abhijeet Gupta at the National Senior Chess Championship with a score of 8/10 after 10 rounds.

OBITUARY

1) Pope Benedict XVI has passed away

- Statement released by the Vatican, the former Pope Benedict XVI has passed away in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. He was 95 years old.
- The head of the Catholic Church, former Pope Benedict, was the first pope in 600 years to resign. He resigned in 2013 and was replaced by the present pope Francis. Pope Benedict was the first German to become pope in 1000 years.
- He was the head of the Vatican City from 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013. He was born as Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in the southern German village of Marktl, close to Austria.

2) R Krishnakumar passed away

- R Krishnakumar, a close confidante of Ratan Tata and a group veteran, passed away. Kerala-born Krishnakumar, who had served at multiple positions in the group, including heading its hospitality arm Indian Hotels, was 84.
- He had been active with the Tata Trusts after his retirement from executive roles and was reportedly a part of the team which worked alongside Ratan Tata in the Cyrus Mistry ouster episode.
- In 2009, Krishnakumar was awarded Padma Shri.

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